The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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Financial Help Wanted

Local Unions and friends should help the Textile Workers, Glove Workers, and the Calumet victims.

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HATTERS LOSE CASE IN HIGHEST COURT

Washington, Jan. 9.—Last Tuesday the United States Supreme Court, in a unanimous opinion, decided that the union hatters of Danbury, Conn., must pay $252,000 to the firm of D. E. Loewe Company, as the result of a strike and boycott started against this firm in 1902.

The firm sued for $80,000, and under the Sherman anti-trust law was awarded three time this amount. The additional $12,000 allowed was for attorneys' fees and other expenses. The homes of 186 union hatters have been held under attachment orders for the past several years, and the judgment of lower courts is now finally affirmed.

During the long years of this legal controversy, the American Federation of Labor has supported the hatters in their position that they have the right to ask friends and sympathizers to join with them in withholding patronage from an unfair employer.

This position has been indorsed by the United States Congress by its passage of the Clayton bill, which provides "nor shall such organizations (labor unions) or the members thereof, be held or construed to be illegal combinations or conspiracies in restraint of trade, under the anti-trust laws."

Under the Clayton law judges are prohibited from issuing an injunction against any person or persons from withholding their patronage from any party to a labor dispute, or "from recommending, advising or persuading others by peaceful and lawful means so to do."

In urging the passage of the Clayton law, the unionists showed the unlimited power possessed by the courts, through their interpretation of the Sherman anti-trust law, and the workers have insisted that under this interpretation the homes and savings of toilers were seized as a penalty for exercising their rights.

The United States Supreme court, in its decision in the hatters' case, has not only verified these claims, but has emphasized the wisdom of Congress in passing a law that will curb the judiciary in its policy of reading into the Sherman anti-trust law a meaning that was never intended.

TO PROBE GLOVE STRIKE.

Gloversville, N. Y., Jan. 9.—Officers of the Glove Workers' union have been notified that the United States Commission on Federal Relations will probably start its investigation of the local glove cutters' strike at New York city on January 18. These workers are asking for wage increases, which have been denied them for seventeen years. The A. F. of L. is assisting them, and has issued an appeal for financial aid, to be divided equally between them and the Atlanta textile workers and the copper miners of northern Michigan.

PROTEST LOW WAGE SCALE.

Racine, Wis., Jan. 9.—The Trades and Labor Council has forwarded a protest to the common council against the low wages paid on sewer construction work in this city. The rates range from 17½ to 22½ cents an hour. The unionists say: "It is bad enough that private employers take advantage of men hungry for the want of a job, but that a supposedly up-to-date city, with high municipal ideals, should allow its workers to be ground down to the lowest possible wages, seems hardly credible."

PRINTERS START PAPER.

New Orleans, La., Jan. 9.—Printers who have been locked out by three newspapers in this city have started a morning paper—the Southern American. The strikers are confident of success. Differences first arose over a five day law these workers adopted and which the newspapers objected to. Because the law was not repealed instanter, the publishers presented new demands, which was followed by the lockout order.

START A CO-OP. BAKERY.

Galveston, Tex., Jan. 9.—As a result of the bakers' strike in this city, organized labor has formed a company to conduct a bakery along co-operative lines. It is stated that $7,500 has been subscribed, and efforts will be made immediately to compete with employers who refuse their workers a shorter work day. Trade union officials have been appointed on a committee to select a location, order machinery and complete other details.

SENATE TOGAS COSTLY.

Washington, Jan. 9.—According to statements filed with the secretary of the United States Senate, $460,777.25 represents the total of campaign expenditures of men who sought senatorial honors last November, when one-third of the senate membership was elected. Georgia candidates spent the most, $41,492.63. The smallest statements came from North Carolina, $702.65.

POISONED WOMAN GETS $10,000.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—What is said to be the first suit in which lead poisoning in printing shops has been proved was brought to a close in this city when Mary Sheets, a printer, was awarded $10,000 damages because of poisoning alleged to be contracted in the printing plant of the International Harvester company. The complainant was a type distributor for two years and is now a partial paralytic.

WILL URGE NEW LAW.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 9.—A new law covering the non-payment of wages is being prepared by State Labor Commissioner McLaughlin. The old law has been declared unconstitutional, and it is reported that some employers are taking advantage of present conditions to mulct workers out of small amounts.

AGAINST CHANGES IN LAW.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 9.—In a speech at a banquet given by the Allied Printing Trades Council, George F. Burba, secretary to ex-Governor Cox, referred to the men who are attempting to weaken the workmen's compensation law as "a bunch of crooks."

FISHERMEN TO ORGANIZE.

Miami, Fla., Jan. 9.—Because fish dealers are attempting to reduce prices, fishermen in this city have decided to organize a union. Dealers have been notified that the fishermen will not sell their fish for less than the price paid last season.

OFFERS UNEMPLOYED PLAN

Chicago, Jan. 9.—"The city has failed to develop any adequate, systematic machinery by means of which the manless job and the jobless man may be brought face to face," is one of the views of the municipal markets commission on the unemployed question in a report to the city council.

These recommendations are made:

"Municipal insurance against unemployment.

"Reorganization of state employment agencies.

"Establishment of an efficient municipal employment bureau in the department of public welfare.

"Appointment of an advisory committee of ten business men and ten labor men to study the problem of unemployment.

"The city should pass suitable ordinances strictly regulating private employment agencies in order to eliminate the grave misrepresentation, extortion and dishonest practices frequently complained of and found to prevail.

"Your commission, however, believes that the only effective means of eliminating private employment agencies is by the establishment of efficient and competent public employment agencies in their stead.

"An efficient municipal employment office is the surest method of eliminating private employment agencies with their resulting dishonesty, fraud and unlawful practices.

"The city should promote insurance against unemployment in order to prevent destitution and misery when unemployment cannot be prevented by the operation of a municipal employment bureau, public work for the unemployed and part time work. Provision should be made for the honorable maintenance at public expense of the surplus laborers.

"Experience has shown that soup kitchens and bread lines for the unemployed are as a rule indiscriminating and do more harm than good.

"Work undertaken by the city as a means of relief or charity should be considered as a last despairing effort to aid the unemployed when it has or knows no better alternative.

"Relief work of this nature, while blameless and uncensurable, as long as human beings are starving and homeless, is almost wholly useless for benefiting the people thus relieved.

"The city council by all means should avoid appropriating money for charitable purposes."

CAN'T TAKE THE MINES.

Cleveland, Jan. 9.—A large coal company of this city, owners of mines in the eastern Ohio field, where a strike has been on for several months, announces it has organized a new company and will move to West Virginia.

This course is taken, it is said, because "the Green anti-screen law has killed Ohio mining." This law was passed by the last legislature, after twenty years' effort by the organized miners. It provides that the workers shall be paid for all coal mined. Formerly, the coal was screened, the miner receiving pay only for the coal that did not go through the mesh.

The anti-screen law, however, is not the miners' reason for striking. They are asking that the operators pay the same rate—47 cents per ton—as is being paid in other sections of the state. This rate is being paid with the understanding that it will apply to the Ohio field, and the miners show that if they accept a reduction it will mean a lowering of wages throughout the state.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Secretary of Labor Wilson has appointed ex-Commissioner of Immigration Daniel J. Keefe and Hywell E. Davies as conciliators in the miners' strike of eastern Ohio. The latter was one of the conciliators who attempted to adjust the recent Colorado strike. Secretary Wilson explains that no attempt will be made to arbitrate the Ohio strike unless both parties agree to this procedure.

TEACHERS TALK PENSIONS.

Columbus, O., Jan. 9.—Pensions for teachers was discussed at a meeting of the Ohio Teachers' association. It was proposed that the fund now paid by boards of education under the workmen's compensation law be transferred to a pension fund. It was argued by a number of educators that the benefits received by teachers under the workmen's compensation system are not proportionate to the funds paid to the state by boards of education. Teachers seldom suffer accidents such as to disable them during the course of their employment, but they have an urgent need for protection in old age, it was said.

NAVY YARD WAGES NOT CUT.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Employes of the Washington navy yard have secured a victory by Secretary of the Navy Daniels' reversal of recommendations by a wage board that wages be reduced. The machinists, one of the largest trades at the yard, were hit the hardest by the wage board's decision. In this case a general redution of eight cents a day was favored. Representatives of the machinists protested and showed that the new rule would wipe out the 7½ per cent increase in their pay granted by Congress two years ago. Secretary Daniels agreed with this point and ordered that wages remain as they are.

"JOKERS" FOE TO I. & R.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The principle of direct legislation is no longer openly opposed, said Secretary Judson King at a meeting of the Popular Government League. The plan now favored by the opponents of people's rule is to insert "jokers" that render direct legislation laws ineffective.

Well-known citizens voiced their views on subjects relating to the initiative and referendum. Edmund B. Osborne, of Montclair, N. J., said: "There is no sign of disappearance of political parties, but there are signs of disappearance of the slavery of men to parties."

NAVY YARD GETS AWARD.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The navy department has awarded the Mare Island navy yard the contract for building a torpedo-boat destroyer, the first contract of its kind ever given to a government yard. In the bidding for the contract, Mare Island underbid private plants by nearly $200,000. The navy yard bureau chiefs do not seem to fancy this condition and declare the contract will not be fulfilled in time. Officers of the yard predict some one is due for surprises, as the boat will be delivered as per schedule.

SUSTAINING TUBERCULAR POOR.

New York, Jan. 9.—The burden of institutional care of the consumptive is being shifted from the private purse to the general public purse, according to a report of the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. In 1914, more than $20,500,000 was spent in the United States anti-tuberculosis campaign and of this sum 66.8 per cent was derived from public funds, compared with 53 per cent in 1902.

U. S. SENATE PASSES BURNETT IMMIGRATION BILL WITH ILLITERACY TEST

Washington, Jan. 9.—By a vote of 50 to 7, the United States Senate, last Saturday, passed the Burnett immigration bill, with the illiteracy test, which provides that immigrants must read the English language, "or some other language or dialect, including Hebrew or Yiddish." Exceptions to the test were made in cases where "any admissible alien or any alien heretofore or hereafter legally admitted, or any citizen of the United States, may bring in or send for his father or grandfather over fifty-five years of age, his wife, his mother, his grandmother, or his unmarried or widowed daughter."

The bill passed the House of Representatives on February 4 last by a vote of 252 to 126. It now goes to a conference of both houses because of Senate amendments. The illiteracy test remains intact, and it is believed an agreement will be reached in the near future between both branches, after which the bill will be presented to President Wilson for signature.

A bill similar to the present one was vetoed by President Taft, because of the illiteracy test.

The Burnett bill was urged by the American Federation of Labor and the organized farmers of this country. Its passage by the Senate marks another advance by unionists in their efforts to secure remedial legislation. Regulation of immigration was included in labor's Bill of Grievances, made public in 1906.

At the Philadelphia convention of the A. F. of L., last November, the Burnett bill was unanimously approved, and attention was also called to the large number of incapacitated immigrants who will come to our shores after the European war. These will be assisted by their respective governments, so that the devastated nations may have only the fittest, that commerce and industry may be restored. "For this," the convention declared, "if for no other reason, the organized labor movement of the North American continent should devote, without cessation, its most earnest endeavor to secure the speedy passage of the Burnett bill, containing provision for the illiteracy test."

For years the trade union movement has endeavored to check the hordes of immigrants, in most cases assisted, who have been the greatest factor in making it possible for the steel trust, the meat packers, the coal barons, and their allies to maintain the living standard of their employes at a low point.

This question has been the subject of innumerable investigations by Congressional committees. The immigration commission, consisting of representatives of both Houses, after long research and inquiry, recommended "the exclusion of those unable to read or write in some language." It was declared on the floor of the Senate, last Saturday, that the immigration commission, after its several years' study, has "given us more detailed information on the subject than was ever gathered together before in the history of the world."

This report, together with that of nearly every other competent investigator, declares that the tendency of the illiterates over the literates to congest in the large cities is very marked, and that this was one of the strongest economic reasons for favoring restriction.

On this point trade unionists rested their case and presented their experience and knowledge of industry in cities as an unanswerable argument to the sentimental pleas of well-meaning people who overlooked the all-important battle organized workers are waging to maintain American living standards.

WORKERS ROBBED BY AGENTS

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 9.—In the annual report of the state department of labor the evils of private employment offices are shown. It is a common practice for the employment agent to make an agreement with a foreman or superintendent to send a given number of men each month and then divide the fees. In order to make places for the men who are coming in the foreman has to discharge men that he has on, so that it has become a saying with respect to some of these concerns, that they have one crew coming, one crew working and one crew going. It is often difficult to prove the truth of the charge of fee splitting. Foreign laborers in particular are the victims of exorbitant fees. In one case the agent charged the men $4 for jobs as railroad laborers at $1.50 a day with the understanding that $3 of the $4 would be refunded to the men if the work lasted less than ten days. If the men worked ten days they had to pay the fee of $4. They paid $4 for the privilege of earning $15.

The report recommends that the hours of labor law for women be extended to cover the whole state, instead of merely the three large cities; that street trades should be so regulated as to prevent the employment of small children, and that boarding camps of all sorts should be covered by legislation, regulating ventilation, sanitation and lighting of bunk houses and kitchens, and providing for state inspections of these places.

PENSION PLAN CAUSE GRAFT?

Chicago, Jan. 9.—Most of the graft in this city's police department can be traced to the pension system now in vogue, according to Chief Factory Inspector Nelson, who made the statement at a meeting of the Federation of Labor.

"We want a pension system," said Nelson, "but we want one in which a man can draw out the share he contributes any time he wants to. We can't afford to allow the workers to become subservient to political heads of departments. If we do, you will have just such a situation as we have in Chicago today. Policemen are not crooks by nature. But when they see dismissal and the loss of their positions staring them in the face, if they refuse to obey an obnoxious order, they have to obey or take a chance of losing their savings. When the men have no right to withdraw their share of the pension fund, it makes them subservient. A pension is the only provision a policeman has for the care of his family in case of his death. It represents his savings. Now the pension makes a slave of him."

MINERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Pittsburg, Kan., Jan. 9.—The strike of miners against the Cherokee & Pittsburgh Coal & Mining company has been adjusted. The terms of the settlement have not been published, but it is said the miners have won their demand for payment for mining "squeally" coal. This controversy has been one of long standing. The miners have demanded that they be paid the full scale for the removal of this coal, while the operators have argued that the coal is valueless and the rate paid the miners should not be the same as that paid for a better quality of coal. It is said the agreement reached on this matter provides that the company shall pay miners the day scale of $3.13 in cases where this sort of coal is encountered. If the company is not willing to pay for the coal's removal, then the miner shall be given another place to work.

FAVOR COMPENSATION.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 9.—A commission appointed by the state senate to investigate the question of workmen's compensation favors this principle, and makes the following recommendations:

An elective workmen's compensation act.

An act creating the Missouri industrial commission.

An act providing for the organization of corporations on the mutual plan to insure against employers' liability.

An act levying a tax of 5 per cent on all premiums for employers' liability insurance for the support of the industrial commission.

LOBBYISTS ARE BLAMED.

Columbus, O., Jan. 9.—"The lobbyist or lobbyists who, in fact, made the real contribution to the shame and humiliation of the state, are the ones who should be punished," said retiring Gov. Cox, in pardoning an ex-state senator, found guilty of receiving bribes while in the legislature. "The lobbyist is the real culprit, but so cleverly was his work concealed," said the governor, "that conviction would have been impossible. In every case submitted for investigation the trail at once revealed the tracks of the lobbyist."

ADOPT NEW WAGE SCALE.

San Francisco, Jan. 9.—The Chauffeurs' union of this city has agreed to the following rates for motor buses: Motormen, $3.50 per day, with 60 cents an hour for overtime; conductors, $3 per day, with 50 cents an hour for overtime. This scale has been approved by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with whom the chauffeurs are affiliated.

APPROVE OF UNIONS

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 9.—The state board of administration, in charge of all state institutions, has issued the following order as a result of conferences with the organized employes of these institutions:

"General Orders No. III:

"Employes of the state in the state institutions are not to be interfered with by their superior officers because of the fact that they may have joined or contemplate joining a labor organization. Labor organizations in this regard are in the same class as religious and fraternal organizations and no employe is to be handicapped or discriminated against on account of the fact that he is affiliated with them.

"The attitude of the board toward all of these organizations is one of toleration, and in their efforts to better mankind or improve conditions, social, economic, or moral, it is one of sympathy and encouragement, and under no circumstances the reverse. The rule of unrestricted freedom is the policy of the board in this controversy."

UNION AIDS STATE WORKERS

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 9.—Organized labor has won its fight for the right of nurses and attendants in public institutions of this state to join a labor union. At a conference with the state board of administration the workers showed that certain officials had been denying this right. As a result, the board issued a general order to superintendents and others in control of these places that workers are not to be interfered with.

These unions are affiliated to the A. F. of L., and have already reduced the working hours from twelve and fourteen to eight. Wages have advanced and relief has been given in cases of personal abuses. Through these unions great help has been extended those who take civil service examinations, and unfairness is being eliminated. Grievance committees at the various institutions have been established.

It is stated that an apprenticeship system will be established whereby it will be agreed between the union and a superintendent that beginners may work for a certain length of time, the superintendent to report to the organization as to their efficiency and conduct, and if not found sufficiently good shall be dismissed. If these workers prove their efficiency they shall join the organization and remain employes of the institution.

The organized nurses and attendants say it is impossible to estimate the amount of service that is being rendered patients through a greater efficiency that naturally follows higher wages and shorter hours.

STOCK FOR EMPLOYES; U. S. TO TAKE PHONES

Chicago, Jan. 9.—Is the American Telephone & Telegraph company, the parent company of the Bell system, preparing to "unload" stock on employes because of continued agitation for government ownership? The company has announced that employes may now purchase stock in the company for $110 a share on easy terms.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Representative Lewis, a member of the House labor group, is urging the taking over by the government of the various telephone systems in this country. It is proposed that the interstate commerce commission be instructed to appraise the value of the lines, which would then be paid for by the government under this valuation. In a speech last week the unionist made a notable defense of this position which included a history of the world's telephone systems.

MINERS ARE ALERT.

Springfield, Ill., Jan. 9.—Miners in this state are watching the state efficiency and economy commission which, it is said, favors changing the miners' qualification law. The administration expense of the law is met by the fees paid by miners who take the examination, and they insist that any changes would flood the state "with hordes of raw, green ignorant men, endangering not only their own lives and limbs, but those of all others in the mines."

WANT HOURS REDUCED.

Ottawa, Ontario, Jan. 9.—Representatives of locomotive engineers presented a petition to the minister of labor for a law limiting to 14 hours the work of engineers throughout Canada. These workers declare they have been required to work more than 24 hours at a stretch.

R. R. KEY MEN REPORT GAINS

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 9.—"Notwithstanding world-wide disturbing influences, the Order of Railroad Telegraphers attended strictly to its business and during the year 1914, forty-three new and revised schedules were negotiated in the United States and Canada," reports President Perham, in a circular just issued.

In addition, mention is made of the many grievances adjusted and much legislative work accomplished. The telegraphers are nearer a 100 per cent organization than ever, and President Perham suggests that delegates to the coming convention be prepared to consider the following questions:

What should be done about unionizing roads where the organization, while partially effective, is not perfect?

What shall the organization do about the few roads that are still unorganized and without a schedule?

What further action ought the organization take about commissions on commercial telegrams and express business?

What action shall the organization take about trainmen handling telephone train orders?

What shall the organization do about discontinuing to carry the mail and parcel post through the streets?

SERVICE NOT A COMMODITY.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 9.—The supreme court of this state distinguishes between "service" and a commodity. The decision was made in the case of the State vs. Frank et al., who, as launderers, had agreed with each other to fix the price to be charged to their customers, and carried on their business under such agreement, and also combined to launder for the city of Malvern at less prices than those charged in Little Rock, where they were located. The state held this agreement was in violation of the state anti-trust law, which prohibits unlawful combinations to regulate or fix "the price of any article of manufacture, mechanism, commodity, convenience, repair, any product of mining, or any article or thing whatsoever." The supreme court held that the agreement did not come within the terms of the provision of the anti-trust statute. The court said that the business of laundering was a mere service done; that an agreement to regulate the price to be charged therefore was in its last analysis merely an agreement to fix the price of labor or services, and that the legislature had not made such an agreement unlawful.

"HOME RULE" FOR CONVICTS.

Columbus, O., Jan. 9.—The warden of the state penitentiary in this city has announced a sort of federal form of government by which the prisoners are to have a voice in their own management under a plan never before attempted in the history of the institution. The penitentiary will be divided into six precincts. Prisoners of each precinct will elect one of their members councilman. Each councilman will be allowed to visit all the prisoners in his precinct with a view of learning their needs, troubles and wishes. Every week or two the council will meet with the warden for the purpose of suggesting measures for the inmates' betterment. While the suggestions will be advisory only, the warden says these recommendations will be given due consideration in the shaping of his general scheme of management.

PUBLIC CUP ABOLISHED.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 9.—The state board of health has issued an order abolishing the public drinking cup and the use of the roller towel in public places and fixing sanitary rules to govern barber shops, manicure parlors and chiropodists' offices. The rules regarding the drinking cups and roller towels practically are the same as those enforced in interstate trains.

The order requires that all instruments used by barbers, manicurists and chiropodists must be sterilized. Violation of the order will be a misdemeanor.

DECISION MAY CHANGE LAW.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 9.—It is predicted that the state will revise its present compensation laws and establish a general system of insurance, if the decision of Judge John F. Talbott in the Jasper county district court is upheld. The judge ruled that employers who have rejected the compensation act must do business at their own risk and with no limit to the damages which an injured workman may recover. The case has been appealed to the supreme court.

FARM TEACHING NEEDED.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 9.—For the first time in nearly seventy years the American Association for the Advancement of Science considered agriculture and its ever-increasing importance. Speakers declared more time should be devoted to this question in the schools, as city life and the factory system is stopping the development of country life.

PAINTERS WOULD RAISE WAGES.

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 9.—The Painters' union has presented a new wage scale to employers. No increases are asked for this year, but the rate for 1916 is placed at 52 cents an hour.

WAR MAKES WOMEN SLAVES

Philadelphia, Jan. 9.—"The war in Europe is forcing women into the fields and the streets to do the work the men are neglecting, that they may kill each other. War destroys all that enlightened women have fought for and makes them merely the slaves of men.'

This indictment of armed conflict was made by Mrs. Mary Garlin Spencer, professor of sociology at a White Plains, N. Y., seminary, in an address on "War and Women."

"The awful, hopeless drudgery of the women in Europe," said the speaker, "will make the next generation, born on European battlefields, inferior mentally and weak physically. This will happen because women have been put back into the drudgery of primitive, tribal days, from which the enlightened women of today have emerged after centuries of struggle.

"In Europe woman again has become only a breeder of food for cannon. Soldiers are encouraged to marry before they leave for the front, with the thought in the minds of the autocrats that if the men of this generation are killed some means must be devised to supply the men of the next.

I resent it. I want all women to get together to resist this plunge backward to the misery and slavery of 2,000 years ago. If men do not see the meaningless horror of war, women should see clearly that it means a reversal of all those things for which enlightened womanhood has fought."

UNIONISTS FULL OF FIGHT.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 9.—Unionists in this state have girded their loins for another battle to secure a workmen's compensation law to replace the one just declared unconstitutional by the state court of appeals, in a divided opinion. The majority opinion held the act illegal on the ground that the amounts for damages in the law were against this section of the state constitution: "The general assembly shall have no power to limit the amount to be recovered for injuries resulting in death, or for injuries to person or property."

The minority opinion distinguished between compulsion and the voluntary act of a worker who may elect to accept the provisions of the compensation law. This, it was declared by the dissenting judges, removes it from the section of the state constitution referred to. Kentucky trade unionists have asked the attorney general to request a rehearing, with a view of having the case reversed. If this fails, appeal will be made to the federal courts, and a change in the state constitution is the last resort.

EIGHT HOURS PROFITABLE.

Galveston, Tex., Jan. 9.—A shorter work day is a good business proposition is the view expressed by the manager of the Miller Brothers' Manufacturing company to representatives of organized labor in this city.

"We are now working forty-eight hours per week in our factory," said the employer. "The wage scale has been raised until the girls working in our factory average about $9 per week, while some of them make as high as $20 per week. Under union conditions, with shorter working hours and increased pay, we have been able to produce more from each machine than we were producing a few years ago. These facts should speak for themselves. With better pay and shorter working hours the employes feel more interested in their work and give it their whole attention, instead of dragging through the hours of the day."

SAFETY-AT-SEA PACT FAILS.

Washington, Jan. 9.—It is now proven that the London conference on safety at sea was held to no purpose, because the United States Senate refused to accept the treaty agreed upon, and representatives of the world's maritime nations could not be gotten together because of the war. The last day for acceptance was December 31. The United States government made no effort to present its amended ratification to the nations, in view of present conditions. It is agreed that the shipping trust was at least not opposed to the London treaty, but the United States Senate spoiled the plan when it attached an amendment providing, in effect, that this country refused to surrender to other nations the right to make laws governing shipping and relating to the condition of seamen.

REPORT ON IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Jan. 9.—According to a report issued by the federal health service there were 41,236 immigrants last year who were found to be diseased to such an extent as to be deportable or reportable under the immigration laws.

More than 100 steamship lines bring immigrants to this country, and in all there are more than 175 avenues of immigrant travel from foreign countries to the United States. These immigrants came from 25 different foreign ports and entered this country at 80 different points, 25 of which were seaports.

CONVICT LABOR ON ROADS.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 9.—In an address to the County Judges' association, Prison Commissioner Sullivan stated that contracts for employment of prisoners to contractors will be made for only one year, instead of four, as formerly, in order that plans for road work may be facilitated. The people of the state have voted for convict work on roads, but the proposal had not been advertised properly and the vote was held void. At the next session of the legislature, it is proposed to remedy the matter.

FEWER CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 9.—State health authorities report that there were 50,000 less communicable diseases in Pennsylvania than in 1913. Typhoid fever decreased 70 per cent. The general death rate was only 14.1 per 1,000 inhabitants, a pronounced decrease over conditions half a dozen years ago. Tuberculosis shows indications of being subjugated. Cancer is the only disease which shows an increase. In 1905 there were 24,471 cases of typhoid and 2,971 deaths; in 1914, 7,000 cases and 731 deaths up to November 21.

LAUNDRY DISPUTE SETTLED.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 9.—Laundry workers in this city have adjusted their dispute with the Diamond laundry. It is agreed that forty-eight hours shall constitute a week's work. Time and one-half will be paid for work performed over forty-eight hours. Wages will range from $7 a week for mangle girls to $9 for starchers, finishers, markers and sorters.

OLD-TIME UNIONIST PASSES.

Logansport, Ind., Jan. 9.—O. P. Smith, a well-known trade unionist, died in this city after a lingering illness of Bright's disease. Deceased was a member of the Cigarmakers' union and was at one time an organizer in that union. He is survived by his widow.

ECHO OF STOCKTON STRIKE

San Francisco, Jan. 9.—The settlement of Stockton's strike has put an end to the talk in nonunion circles that the strike would be spread to this city, or that a similar attack would be made on the organized workers of San Francisco. The Bulletin makes this editorial comment:

"Congratulations to the union men of Stockton, who have won a victory for organized labor. Congratulations also to the employers of Stockton, who have recognized the one principle on which a just industrial peace is now possible, that of collective bargaining between organized unions and organized employers.

"Organized bargaining, on equal terms, between employer and workingman, is the only basis on which the interests of the community, of the worker, and of the employer himself can be at once justly and sensibly served."

Stockton, Cal., Jan. 9.—As the terms of the strike settlement is better understood by trade unionists, they realize to a greater extent the value of this peace pact which their representatives secured. The strike—or rather lockout—was caused by the unionists' refusal to act favorably on a letter forwarded them June 26 last by the Merchants, Manufacturers and Employers' association of Stockton, which announced that if the workers did not stop a boycott "this association will take immediate steps to protect its members by insisting that the present employes of the members shall withdraw from the union with which they are now affiliated or resign their positions."

Under the terms of settlement the employers agree to withdraw their letter and the unions agree to stop the boycott. The employers abandon their antiunion position and agree to the following:

"That a committee of three from each side be appointed to which shall be referred all questions affecting wages and hours, which may arise between the two parties, the decision of said committee to be binding on both sides; it being definitely understood that no drastic action shall be taken by either side until after said committee has considered the matter and rendered a decision."

WOULD RAISE COMPENSATION.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 9.—Joseph A. Parks, a member of the Industrial Accident Board of Massachusetts, favors a higher per cent standard of payments than is now provided for by compensation laws. In an address in this city, he declared that 50 per cent was wholly inadequate, and that even the two-thirds rule, in vogue in his own state, was insufficient.

The minimum payments, Mr. Parks said, should range from $5 in the case of a minor having no dependents to $10 for employes having one other person dependent upon them. For each other person dependent above one he would raise the minimum $2 until a minimum of $16 was reached.

"If the employe received a permanently disabling injury, such as the loss of an arm or leg, or incapacitating loss of vision, he should receive a percentage of the future payments in the form of an annuity or lump sum, in accordance with a table which should be definitely worked out, so that his future would be provided for."

UNION OF NATIONS CERTAIN.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 9.—In a speech in this city Dr. John Mez, of Munich, declared that a world state, based upon the principles of international morality, democracy, justice, and co-operation, necessarily must follow nationalism, the characteristic ideal of the nineteenth century, with all its national rivalries, frictions, and wars.

"During the past decades," said Dr. Mez, "new factors have come into existence that have created an international interdependence and interchainment, a mutuality of interests as between nations, thus creating an international unity of men in many more respects than generally is realized. No better proof of this fact could be found than the present great war, which makes its sad and tragical effects felt not only with the belligerent groups of nations, but also to a very large extent among the neutral countries all over the world."

SEAMEN'S BILL IN CONFERENCE.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The Senate committee on commerce reported the seamen's bill back to the Senate with a recommendation that the Senate non-concur with the House amendments and request that a conference be held upon the disagreements between the two Houses. This was agreed to and Senator Clark, of Arkansas, who was in the chair, appointed the following conferees: Senators Fletcher, Chamberlain, Vardaman, Nelson, and Smith (Michigan). The House conferees are: Representatives Alexander, Hardy, Burke (Wis.), Greene (Mass.), and Curry.

Friends of the bill are hopeful that the conference will unite on a bill that will contain the principles urged by the trade union movement.

PLEADS FOR LOWER DEATH RATE

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 9.—In a talk on the high death rate in this country, Dr. E. A. Winslow, of the New York state board of health, said: "Fully as tragic as the deaths due to the war were those of 1,500,000 men, women and children who died in the United States during 1914. Fully 40 per cent of these deaths were needless. Half of them might have been prevented by simple procedures."

In commenting on this statement, the Public Ledger says: "Evil housing, filthy surroundings, cheerless conditions, lack of sunlight—in short, a general lack of those essentials which make for physical strength and cheerful minds cause a death rate entirely beyond proper proportion."

WEAVERS STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 9.—Alleging that the use of shoddy warp and fillings into the manufacture of army blankets for the warring nations of Europe has decreased their earning power from 75 cents to $1 a day, nearly 100 men and women weavers employed in the John & James Dobson company mills struck. The Dobson company officials refused either to increase wages or to treat with their committee. There was a strike at this place last November.

WILL URGE LABOR LAWS.

Augusta, Me., Jan. 9.—Officers of the Maine Federation of Labor met in this city to discuss legislative matters of concern to the workers, and to agree on bills which are to be presented to the coming legislature. Particular attention was given workmen's compensation and 54-hour bills.

LOCOMOTIVE BILL PASSED.

Washington, Jan. 9.—By a unanimous vote the House of Representatives has passed the bill known as H. R. 1304, which extends the boiler inspection law, passed in 1911, to all parts of the locomotive and tender